

# Cal EPA ELECTRONIC WASTES FORUM

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## WEEE Directive

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# WEEE DIRECTIVE

“The purpose is, as a first priority, the prevention of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and in addition, the reuse, recycling and other forms of recovery of such wastes so as to reduce the disposal of waste.

“It also seeks to improve the environmental performance of all operators involved in the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment, e.g. producers, distributors and consumers and in particular those operators directly involved in the treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment.”

# WEEE DIRECTIVE

- What is WEEE? All equipment dependent on electrical currents or electromagnetic fields. If it had a plug or a battery, it is WEEE.
- WEEE looks to the producer to pay and retain responsibility (along with commercial users) for disposition of EOL goods.
- What is a "producer?" Anyone who, irrespective of the selling technique used, including by means of distance communication:
  - ◆ Manufactures and sells its own brand.
  - ◆ Re-sells under its own brand.
  - ◆ Imports or exports.

# WEEE DIRECTIVE: TIMETABLE

- Directive Commences: Mid 2004 (tent.)
- Implement Producer Responsibility Mid 2005 (tent.)
- Meet recycling targets End 2006 (tent.)

# WEEE DIRECTIVE

- “Member states shall adopt all appropriate measures to ... encourage [consumers] to facilitate the process of reuse, treatment, and recovery.”
- The EU Commission supports an obligation for member states to ensure that WEEE is not disposed of with unsorted household waste, without penalties to consumers for not sorting their WEEE.
- Cost to implement: **£191 - £391 million per annum.\***
- The Final Directive will leave the choice of who pays to each EU Member State.
- \*DTI.09/07/02.

# WEEE – What Is Included?

## 10 categories of goods

- Large & small household appliances (1-2)
- IT, telecommunications & lighting equipment (3-4)
- “Consumer equipment” (e.g. equipment/ products that reproduce sound or image) (5)
- Electrical and electronics tools (6)
- Toys, leisure and sports equipment (7)
- Medical devices (8)
- Monitoring & control instruments (9)
- Automatic dispensers (e.g. vending machines) (10)

# WEEE DIRECTIVE: REQUIREMENTS

- Collect WEEE separate from other disposed goods, averaging 6 kg per inhabitant per year from private households
- Treatment should be according to standards
- Set targets for recovery and recycling
- Producer should pay from collection onward
- Retailers should offer free take-back
- Consumers should be able to return WEEE easily and without cost

# WEEE: KEY ELEMENTS

- Up-front Payment scheme
- Threshold per capita recovery requirement
- Recycling & recovery rate targets per category. Directive proposes targets between 70-80%.
- Audit of fees and targets
- Removal of hazardous components.